

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendments filed June 25, 2008 and September 30, 2008 have been entered. Claims 41-62 and 71 are cancelled and claims 1-40 and 63-70 remain pending.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1 in the reply filed on September 30, 2008 is acknowledged.

Specification

3. The objections to the specification are withdrawn in view of the amendment filed June 25, 2008.

Claim Objections

4. The objections to the claims are withdrawn in view of the amendment filed June 25, 2008 and the Examiner's Amendment below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are withdrawn in view of the amendment filed June 25, 2008 and the Examiner's Amendment below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are withdrawn in view of the amendment filed June 25, 2008 and the Examiner's Amendment below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are withdrawn in view of the amendment filed June 25, 2008 and the Examiner's Amendment below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

8. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roland E. Long, Jr. on January 12, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 13 and 33.

In claim 1 (Patent claim 1)

In line 7, **delete** the first occurrence of "fuel" and **insert** - - fuel-fill - - therefor;

In line 9, following "when" **insert** - - fuel is detected at - -;

In line 10, **delete** "is detected";

In line 14, following “connection” **insert** - - , wherein complete and secure connection between the nozzle and the coupling piece is detected by means of the level detection signaling configuration, said configuration being fully established when said connection is completed - -.

In claim 14 (Patent Claim 17)

In line 1, **delete** “claim 1” and **insert** - - claim 4 - - therefor.

In claim 19 (Patent Claim 21)

In line 7, **delete** “fuel” and **insert** - - fuel-fill - - therefor;

In line 9, following “when” **insert** - - fuel is detected at - - and **delete** “is detected”;

In line 13, following “connection” - - , and means (28, 44) for detecting complete and secure connection between the nozzle and the coupling piece by means of the level detection signaling configuration, said configuration being fully established when said connection is completed - -.

In claim 34 (Patent Claim 40)

In line 1, **delete** “claim 19” and **insert** - - claim 22 - - therefor.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-12, 14-32, 34-40 and 63-70 are allowed.

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. The prior art does not disclose nor render obvious a system and method for spill-free refueling comprising establishing a liquid-tight connection between a nozzle of a refueling gun and a coupling piece of a fuel receiving object through which fuel is provided to a fuel container, detecting a predetermined fuel-fill level in the fuel container, automatically interrupting the flow of fuel when fuel is detected at the predetermined level and a level detection signaling configuration is established by moving the gun into position for the liquid-tight connection wherein the complete and secure connection between the nozzle and the coupling piece is detected by the level detection signaling configuration which is fully established when said connection is completed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICOLAS A. ARNETT whose telephone number is (571)270-5062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NAA

/Timothy L Maust/
for Gregory Huson, SPE of Art Unit 3751